

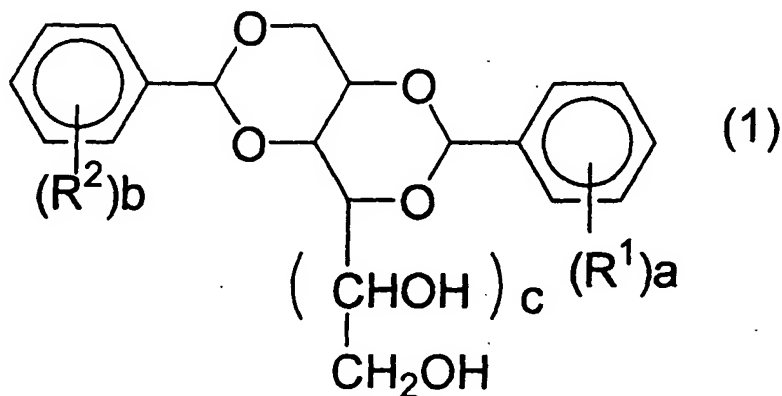
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 9 and 10, as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Currently amended): A method for suppressing aldehyde generation by thermal decomposition of (A) at least one diacetal represented by the formula (1):



wherein R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom, a C_1 to C_4 alkyl group, a C_1 to C_4 alkoxy group, a C_1 to C_4 alkoxycarbonyl group or a halogen atom; a and b each represents an integer of 1 to 5; c is 0 or 1; when a is 2, the two R^1 groups taken together with the benzene ring to which they are linked may form a tetralin ring; and when b is 2, the two

R² groups taken together with the benzene ring to which they are linked may form a tetralin ring;
the method comprising adding the following components (B) and (C) to the diacetal,
wherein

(i) component (B) is (B1) and component (C) is one member selected from the group consisting of (C1), (C3) and (C4) or

(ii) component (B) is (B2) and component (C) is one member selected from the group consisting of (C3) and (C4),

wherein component (B) is

(B1) C₆ to C₃₂ saturated or unsaturated aliphatic alcohols; or

(B2) C₈ to C₃₂ saturated or unsaturated aliphatic carboxylic acids having at least one hydroxyl group per molecule, and
component (C) is

(C1) at least one anionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of C₆ to C₃₀ saturated or unsaturated aliphatic alcohol sulfuric ester salts, polyoxyethylene alkyl, wherein the alkyl is C₈ to C₂₂, or alkenyl ether sulfuric ester salts, wherein the alkenyl is C₈ to C₂₂, in which the number of moles of ethylene oxide added is 1 to 8, polyoxyethylene alkyl, wherein the alkyl is C₈ to C₂₂ phenyl ether sulfuric ester salts in which the number of moles of ethylene oxide added is 1 to 10, sulfuric ester salts of polyhydric alcohol fatty acid partial esters formed from a C₃ to C₆ polyhydric alcohol and a C₈ to C₂₂ saturated or unsaturated fatty acid, and C₈ to C₂₂ saturated or unsaturated fatty acid monoalkanol amide sulfuric ester salts, wherein the monoalkanol is C₂ to C₆ and the sulfuric ester salts are lithium salts, sodium salts, potassium salts or ammonium salts;

(C3) at least one aliphatic amine selected from the group consisting of dialkanolamine, trialkanolamine, and di(C₈ to C₂₂ alkyl or alkenyl) methylamine; or

(C4) a mixture of (C1) and (C3).

Claim 10 (Currently amended): The method according to claim 9, wherein

~~component (B) is~~ (B1) is at least one member selected from the group consisting of lauryl alcohol, myristyl alcohol, palmityl alcohol, stearyl alcohol and behenyl alcohol, [[or]]

~~component (B) is~~ (B2) is at least one member selected from the group consisting of 9-hydroxystearic acid, 10-hydroxystearic acid, 12-hydroxystearic acid and 9,10-dihydroxystearic acid, and

~~component (C) (C1) is~~ (C1a) at least one sulfuric ester salt selected from the group consisting of lauryl sulfate salts, stearyl sulfate salts, oleyl sulfate salts, polyoxyethylene, wherein the number of moles of ethylene oxide added = 2 to 3 lauryl ether sulfate salts, polyoxyethylene, wherein the number of moles of ethylene oxide added = 2 to 3 stearyl ether sulfate salts, polyoxyethylene, wherein the number of moles of ethylene oxide added = 2 to 3 nonylphenyl ether sulfate salts, polyoxyethylene, wherein the number of moles of ethylene oxide added = 2 to 3 dodecylphenyl ether sulfate salts, glyceryl monolaurate sulfate salts, glyceryl monostearate sulfate salts, lauric acid monoethanolamide sulfuric ester salts, stearic acid monoethanolamide sulfuric ester salts, and oleic acid monoethanolamide sulfuric ester salts, wherein the sulfuric ester salts or sulfate salts are lithium salts, sodium salts or potassium salts.

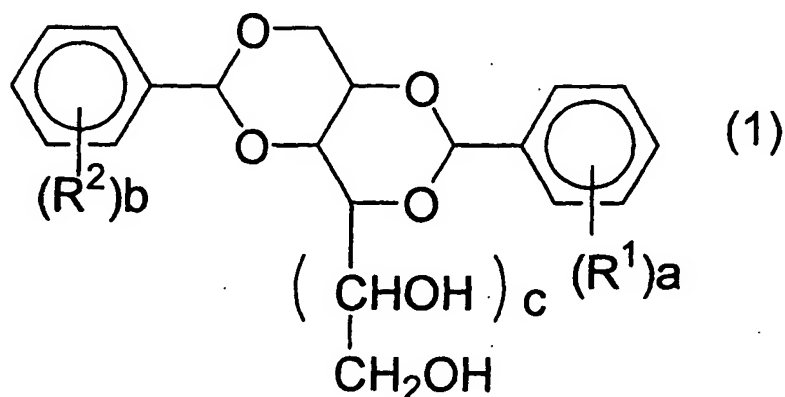
Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 10, wherein component (C) is at least one member selected from the group consisting of sodium lauryl sulfate and potassium lauryl sulfate.

Claim 12 (Original): The method according to any one of claims 9-11, wherein the weight ratio of component (B) to component (C) is 1:0.2 to 5.

Claims 13-14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (Previously presented): A granular or powdery diacetal composition wherein transfer of odor and taste originating from the diacetal is suppressed; the composition comprising components (A), (B) and (C),

wherein component (A) is at least one diacetal represented by the formula (1)



wherein R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom, a C_1 to C_4 alkyl group, a C_1 to C_4 alkoxy group, a C_1 to C_4 alkoxy carbonyl group or a halogen atom; a and b each represents an integer of 1 to 5; c is 0 or 1; when a is 2, the two R^1 groups taken together

with the benzene ring to which they are linked may form a tetralin ring; and when b is 2, the two R² groups taken together with the benzene ring to which they are linked may form a tetralin ring, wherein

(i) component (B) is (B1) and component (C) is one member selected from the group consisting of (C1), (C3) and (C4) or

(ii) component (B) is (B2) and component (C) is one member selected from the group consisting of (C3) and (C4),

wherein component (B) is

(B1) C₆ to C₃₂ saturated or unsaturated aliphatic alcohols; and

(B2) C₈ to C₃₂ saturated or unsaturated aliphatic carboxylic acids having at least one hydroxyl group per molecule, or component (C) is

(C1) at least one anionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of C₆ to C₃₀ saturated or unsaturated aliphatic alcohol sulfuric ester salts, polyoxyethylene alkyl, wherein the alkyl is C₈ to C₂₂ or alkenyl ether sulfuric ester salts wherein the alkenyl is C₈ to C₂₂, in which the number of moles of ethylene oxide added is 1 to 8, polyoxyethylene alkyl, wherein the alkyl is C₈ to C₂₂ phenyl ether sulfuric ester salts in which the number of moles of ethylene oxide added is 1 to 10, sulfuric ester salts of polyhydric alcohol fatty acid partial esters formed from a C₃ to C₆ polyhydric alcohol and a C₈ to C₂₂ saturated or unsaturated fatty acid, and C₈ to C₂₂ saturated or unsaturated fatty acid monoalkanol amide sulfuric ester salts, wherein the monoalkanol is C₂ to C₆ and the sulfuric ester salts are lithium salts, sodium salts, potassium salts or ammonium salts;

(C3) at least one aliphatic amine selected from the group consisting of dialkanolamine, trialkanolamine, and di(C₈ to C₂₂ alkyl or alkenyl) methylamine; or

(C4) a mixture of (C1) and (C3).

Claim 16 (Original): The diacetal composition according to claim 15, wherein based on the total amount of components (A), (B) and (C), component (B) is present in a proportion of 0.1 to 5 wt% and component (C) is present in a proportion of 0.1 to 5 wt%.

Claim 17 (Original): The diacetal composition according to claim 16, wherein the weight ratio of component (B) to component (C) is 1:0.2 to 5.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): A polyolefin resin nucleating agent comprising the diacetal composition according to any one of claims 15 to 17, wherein transfer of odor and taste originating from the diacetal is suppressed.

Claim 19 (Original): A polyolefin resin composition comprising the polyolefin resin nucleating agent according to claim 18 and a polyolefin resin, wherein transfer of odor and taste originating from the diacetal is suppressed.

Claim 20 (Previously presented): The polyolefin resin composition according to claim 19, wherein the polyolefin resin nucleating agent is present in an amount of 0.05 to 3 weight parts per 100 weight parts of the polyolefin resin.

Claim 21 (Previously presented): A polyolefin resin molded product prepared by molding the polyolefin resin composition according to claim 19, wherein transfer of odor and taste originating from the diacetal is suppressed.

Claim 22 (Original): A container or a packaging material for foods, cosmetics or medicines comprising the polyolefin resin molded product according to claim 21, wherein transfer of odor and taste originating from the diacetal is suppressed.

Claim 23 (Original): A method for suppressing odor originating from a diacetal at the time of molding a polyolefin resin, comprising mixing the nucleating agent according to claim 18 with a polyolefin resin and molding a resultant resin composition.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): A method for suppressing transfer of odor and taste originating from a diacetal to a content, characterized in that it comprises placing the content in a packaging material or a container prepared by mixing the nucleating agent according to claim 18 with a polyolefin resin and molding a resultant resin composition.